



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORMER NUTRITION WORKER PLEADS GUILTY

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on June 3, 2003, Genevieve Marie Castaneda (D.O.B., 10/17/49); a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, pled guilty before United States Magistrate Judge David K. Duncan, to conspiracy to obtain by fraud benefits from the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program, operated under the United States Department of Agriculture.

In her guilty plea proceeding, Castaneda admitted that while she was employed as a certified nutrition worker for the Maricopa County Health Department, she conspired with her accomplices from at least March 2002 to February 2003 to fraudulently obtain food items, to include Enfamil baby formula provided from the Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC), administered by the United States Department of Agriculture through the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. Castaneda acknowledged that she prepared fraudulent applications and WIC checks for numerous fictitious persons and then she and her accomplices would assume the identity of those fictitious persons to obtain the Enfamil

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product from local grocery stores. The Enfamil was then re-sold by another accomplice, and all of the participants in the scheme then shared in the proceeds from the Enfamil resales.

The plea agreement requires Castenada to make restitution to the United States in an amount not less than \$83,049.00. and allows for a sentence of up to 21 months imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$250,000.00. Sentencing is set for August 4, 2003, before United States District Court Judge Susan R. Bolton.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by Special Agents of the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and supervisory personnel from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-0266-01-PHX-SRB
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